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# Vascular Plants of the Big and Little Duck Lakes (Siskiyou County, California)

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# A CHECKLIST OF THE VASCULAR PLANTS OF THE BIG AND LITTLE DUCK LAKES (SISKIYOU COUNTY, CALIFORNIA)

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Big Duck Lake and Little Duck Lake are located in the Russian Wilderness in the Klamath National Forest. They lie within a half mile of one another. The area is popular for its beauty and for its fishing, camping, and swimming. The nearest towns are Etna and Callahan along State Route 3 north of Weaverville. Access is gained via French Creek Road and the Duck Lake Trailhead. The trail is rated as moderate to strenuous.

	BDL	LDL
Elevation	6463 ft.	6673 ft.
Length	1800 ft.	800 ft.

The area is of special interest to conifer enthusiasts (affectionately known as "coneheads"), spurred especially after the discovery by John Sawyer and Dale Thornburgh of Humboldt State University of subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), a first for the state. The most dramatic of them is the Brewer spruce (*Picea breweriana*). As W. L. Jepson noted in 1909, "*The appearance of the tree is so strikingly different from any other conifer that they cannot ever be mistaken and at once arrest the attention of the traveler.*" In a roughly one square mile area around Little Duck Lake are 18 conifer species - more than a third the number found in all of northwestern California. It has become known as the "Miracle Mile." See Michael Kauffmann's website for a more complete story.

On a more personal note, one of life's great pleasures was visiting the area with my friend and colleague, John Sawyer.

## LYCOPHYTES

### Isoëtaceae • Quillwort Family

*Isoetes bolanderi*

*Isoetes occidentalis*

## FERNS

### Athyriaceae • Lady Fern Family

*Athyrium filix-femina* var. *cyclosporum*

*Athyrium distentifolium* var. *americanum*

### Cystopteridaceae • Bladder Fern Family

*Cystopteris fragilis*

### Dryopteridaceae • Wood Fern Family

*Polystichum imbricans*

### Pteridaceae • Brake Fern Family

*Cryptogramma acrostichoides*

## CONIFERS

### Cupressaceae • Cypress Family

*Calocedrus decurrens*

*Juniperus communis* var. *saxatilis*

*Juniperus occidentalis*

**Pinaceae • Pine Family**

*Abies concolor* var. *lowiana*  
*Abies lasiocarpa* var. *lasiocarpa*  
*Abies xshastensis*  
*Picea breweriana*  
*Picea engelmannii* var. *engelmannii*  
*Pinus albicaulis*  
*Pinus balfouriana* var. *balfouriana*  
*Pinus contorta* var. *murrayana*  
*Pinus jeffreyi*  
*Pinus lambertiana*  
*Pinus monticola*  
*Pinus ponderosa* var. *ponderosa*  
*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*  
*Tsuga mertensiana*

**Taxaceae • Yew Family**

*Taxus brevifolia*

<b>FLOWERING PLANTS</b>
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**Asparagaceae • Onion or Asparagus Family**

*Allium parvum*  
*Allium validum*  
*Hastingsia alba*  
*Maianthemum racemosum*  
*Maianthemum stellatum*

**Betulaceae • Birch Family**

*Alnus viridis* ssp. *sinuata*

**Boraginaceae • Borage Family**

*Cynoglossum occidentale*  
*Hackelia micrantha*

**Caprifoliaceae • Honeysuckle Family**

*Linnaea borealis* var. *longiflora*  
*Lonicera conjugialis*

**Caryophyllaceae • Carnation or Pink Family**

*Eremogone congesta*  
*Silene douglasii*  
*Stellaria crispa*

**Celastraceae • Spindle Tree Family**

*Parnassia palustris*

**Compositae (Asteraceae) • Aster Family**

*Achillea millefolium*  
*Ageratina occidentalis*  
*Antennaria argentea*  
*Antennaria howellii*  
*Antennaria media*  
*Antennaria rosea* ssp. *rosea*  
*Arnica cordifolia*  
*Arnica diversifolia*  
*Arnica latifolia*  
*Arnica mollis*  
*Balsamorhiza deltoidea*  
*Balsamorhiza hookeri*  
*Ericameria greenei*  
*Erigeron cervinus*  
*Erigeron compositus*  
*Erigeron glacialis* var. *glacialis*  
*Erigeron petrophilus* var. *viscidulus*  
*Eriophyllum lanatum* var. *integrifolium*  
*Eucephalus ledophyllus* var. *ledophyllus*  
*Hazardia whitneyi* var. *discoidea*  
*Hieracium bolanderi*  
*Hieracium horridum*  
*Hieracium nudicaule*  
*Hieracium scouleri*  
*Hieracium triste*  
*Microseris nutans*  
*Oreostemma alpigenum* var. *andersonii*  
*Senecio integerrimus* var. *major*  
*Senecio triangularis*  
*Solidago canadensis* ssp. *elongata*  
*Solidago elongata*

**Crassulaceae • Stonecrop Family**

*Rhodiola integrifolia* ssp. *integrifolia*  
*Sedum obtusatum* ssp. *retusum*

**Cruciferae (Brassicaceae) • Mustard Family**

*Arabis divaricarpa* var. *interposita*  
*Arabis holboellii* var. *retrofracta*  
*Arabis holboellii* var. *pinetorum*  
*Streptanthus tortuosus* var. *tortuosus*

**Cyperaceae • Sedge Family**

*Calliscirpus criniger*  
*Carex amplifolia*  
*Carex bolanderi*  
*Carex echinata* ssp. *echinata*

*Carex fissuricola*  
*Carex luzulina* var. *luzulina*  
*Carex nigricans*  
*Carex scopulorum* var. *bracteosa*  
*Carex spectabilis*  
*Carex stramineiformis*  
*Eleocharis acicularis*  
*Eriophorum crinigerum*

**Ericaceae • Heath Family**

*Arctostaphylos nevadensis*  
*Arctostaphylos patula*  
*Cassiope mertensiana* ssp. *ciliolata*  
*Chimaphila umbellata*  
*Gaultheria humifusa*  
*Kalmia microphylla* var. *microphylla*  
*Leucothoe davisiae*  
*Orthilia secunda*  
*Phyllodoce empetrifolia*  
*Pyrola picta*  
*Rhododendron columbianum*  
*Vaccinium caespitosum*  
*Vaccinium membranaceum*  
*Vaccinium scoparium*

**Fagaceae • Beech or Oak Family**

*Chrysolepis sempervirens*

**Gentianaceae • Gentian Family**

*Gentiana newberryi* var. *newberryi*

**Gramineae (Poaceae) • Grass Family**

*Agrostis exarata*  
*Agrostis pallens*  
*Calamagrostis breweri*  
*Calamagrostis canadensis* var. *langsдорffii*  
*Cinna latifolia*  
*Danthonia californica*  
*Danthonia intermedia* ssp. *intermedia*  
*Danthonia unispicata*  
*Elymus elymoides* var. *elymoides*  
*Glyceria elata*  
*Glyceria striata*  
*Hordeum brachyantherum*  
*Phleum alpinum*  
*Poa secunda* ssp. *secunda*  
*Poa wheeleri*  
*Stipa occidentalis* var. *californica*

*Trisetum canescens*  
*Trisetum spicatum*

**Grossulariaceae • Gooseberry Family**

*Ribes binominatum*  
*Ribes lacustre*  
*Ribes lobbii*  
*Ribes nevadense*  
*Ribes sanguineum* var. *sanguineum*  
*Ribes viscosissimum*

**Guttiferae (Hypericaceae) • St. John's Wort**

*Hypericum anagallides*

**Hydrophyllaceae • Waterleaf Family**

*Hydrophyllum occidentale*  
*Phacelia mutabilis*

**Juncaceae • Rush Family**

*Juncus drummondii*  
*Juncus mertensianus*  
*Juncus nevadensis*  
*Juncus parryi*  
*Luzula divaricata*  
*Luzula subcongesta*

**Lamiaceae (Labiatae) • Mint Family**

*Monardella odoratissima* ssp. *glauca*

**Leguminosae (Fabaceae) • Bean or Pea Family**

*Lupinus andersonii*  
*Lupinus breweri* var. *breweri*  
*Trifolium productum*

**Liliaceae • Lily Family**

*Clintonia uniflora*  
*Lilium kelleyanum*  
*Lilium pardalinum* ssp. *shastense*  
*Prosartes hookeri*  
*Streptopus amplexifolius*

**Melanthiaceae • False Hellebore Family**

*Trillium ovatum* ssp. *oettingeri*  
*Veratrum californicum* var. *californicum*  
*Veratrum viride* var. *eschscholziaenum*

**Montiaceae • Miner's-Lettuce Family**

*Lewisia leeana*

Lewisia triphylla  
Montia parvifolia

**Namaceae • Nama Family**

Nama lobbii

**Nartheciaceae • Bog-Asphodel Family**

Narthecium californicum

**Onagraceae • Evening-Primrose Family**

Chamerion angustifolium ssp. circumvagum

Epilobium glaberrimum ssp. fastigiatum

Epilobium hallianum

Epilobium hornemannii ssp. hornemannii

**Orchidaceae • Orchid Family**

Corallorhiza mertensiana

Platanthera dilatata var. leucostachys

Spiranthes romanzoffiana

**Polemoniaceae • Phlox Family**

Phlox diffusa

Polemonium pulcherrimum

Polemonium pulcherrimum

**Polygonaceae • Knotweed or Smartweed Family**

Eriogonum diclinum

Eriogonum nudum var. nudum

Eriogonum umbellatum var. argus

Eriogonum umbellatum var. humistratum

Polygonum davisiae

**Primulaceae • Primrose Family**

Dodecatheon alpinum

Dodecatheon jeffreyi

**Ranunculaceae • Buttercup Family**

Aconitum columbianum ssp. columbianum

Anemone deltoidea

Anemone lyallii

Anemone oregana var. oregana

Caltha leptosepala

Delphinium decorum ssp. tracyi

Ranunculus eschscholtzii

**Rhamnaceae • Buckthorn Family**

Ceanothus prostratus

Ceanothus velutinus

Frangula californica

**Rosaceae • Rose Family**

Amelanchier pallida

Drymocallis hansenii

Drymocallis lactea var. lactea

Horkelia daucifolia var. daucifolia

Luetkea pectinata

Potentilla flabellifolia

Prunus emarginata

Prunus virginiana var. demissa

Rosa gymnocarpa

Rubus lasiococcus

Sibbaldia procumbens

Spiraea douglasii

**Salicaceae • Willow Family**

Populus trichocarpa

**Saxifragaceae • Saxifrage Family**

Boykinia major

Heuchera merriamii

Mitella pentandra

Saxifragopsis fragarioides

**Scrophulariaceae • Scroph or Figwort Family**

Castilleja arachnoidea

Collinsia rattanii

Mimulus breweri

Mimulus moschatus

Mimulus primuloides var. primuloides

Pedicularis bracteosa var. flavida

Pedicularis contorta

Penstemon deustus

Penstemon newberryi var. berryi

Penstemon procerus var. brachyanthus

**Sambucaceae • Elderberry Family**

Sambucus racemosa var. microbotrys

**Tofieldiaceae • False Asphodel Family**

Triantha occidentalis ssp. brevistyla

Triantha occidentalis ssp. occidentalis

**Typhaceae • Cat-tail Family**

Sparganium angustifolium

**Umbelliferae (Apiaceae) • Carrot Family**

*Ligusticum californicum*  
*Ligusticum grayi*  
*Lomatium macrocarpum*  
*Perideridia parishii* ssp. *latifolia*  
*Sanicula graveolens*

**Valerianaceae • Valerian Family**

*Valeriana californica*

**Violaceae • Violet Family**

*Viola adunca* ssp. *adunca*  
*Viola glabella*  
*Viola macloskeyi*  
*Viola nephrophylla*

**S O U R C E S**

This checklist is based primarily on plants cited in the Consortium of California Herbaria and those deposited in the HSU Vascular Plant Herbarium.